

Heliograph

123 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Special Edition





Governor Jane D. Hall

The events of September 11, 2001 have changed our lives forever. My prayers are with all of you as we grieve and try to comprehend this tragic loss. Yet, in the face of this tragedy, we have asked the people of this nation, as a defiant act against our enemies, to return to their lives and live it as normal as possible.

For some of you, we specifically have requested that your lives be altered and changed forever. The men and women of the Arizona Army National Guard are those people. You have known all along the sacrifices and perils of serving in the National Guard. You have always accepted the commitment and it's tough reality of serving your state and country. The truth is there are no words, no ceremonies, no medal that could fully affirm your reasons for being forever steadfast and strong; and yet you continue to protect and serve this great state and nation.

Our hearts and souls are with New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Their American way of life has been attacked and it has cost all of us our colleagues, friends, and family both military and civilian. Guardsmen of these states and district have paid the price. They have set the example and they have made us humble. Arizonians are proud that the Arizona Army Guard is there for us in our time of need.

This chapter of American history has just begun. Our commitment and resolve has yet to be truly tested. Each one of you will continue to sacrifice more in the future. Each one of you will continue to make the citizens of Arizona very proud. It is a fact that America will prevail and it is certain that you will be the fundamental reason why.

The citizens of Arizona and a grateful nation thank you - God bless you and your families.



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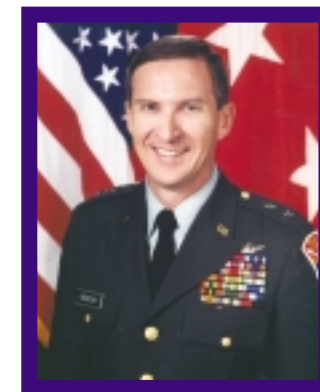
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The Prussian General Carl Von Clausewitz, the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history once wrote "there is a remarkable trinity of war" it is composed of (one) the will of the people, (two) the political leadership of the Government, and (three) the chance of probability that plays out in the field of battle.

On September 11, the will of the American people was tested and strained. However, it was not broken nor defeated. An enemy sought to tear us apart; indeed, they have brought us together. Our enemies sought to manipulate our politicians and government and yet "united we stand." Some say that by destroying the Pentagon and the World Trade Center - symbols of American strength have been destroyed. They got it wrong - American strength lays within the people and not in buildings.

Now a new battlefield has emerged; one that is unlike any that we have fought on in the last century. This battlefield is both in our homeland and abroad. We, as soldiers, will defend wherever we are sent. Now is the time to check your character. Now is the time to rise to the needs of the good people of Arizona and a needing nation.

America did not become what it is today by submitting to it's enemies. The security of our people and our way of life has always remained our number one priority; this is evident in the 174 campaign streamers proudly flying on the Army colors.

On the day that John F. Kennedy was killed, a tailor in New York hung a sign that read, "closed due to a death in the family." That is how 11 September felt to all of us. Thousands of people were killed in those brutal attacks - all Americans were wounded.

History has shown us that we cannot win a war without the belief and resolve of the American people. Make no mistake about it; the American people stand behind you one hundred percent. Further, we continue to be touched by the gratitude from our families for their love and support.

Americans are looking for a sense of security and reassurance that things will be okay. Your mission as a member of the Arizona Army National Guard will be to mend the wounds, restore our faith, ensure our security and freedom. We will not tire or falter, nor will we fail this mission - we will win this war.

God bless the Arizona Army National Guard!

“IT’S TIME TO STEP UP. IT’S OUR COMMUNITY, OUR STATE, AND OUR COUNTRY.” --- Maj. J. Dawson Dopp

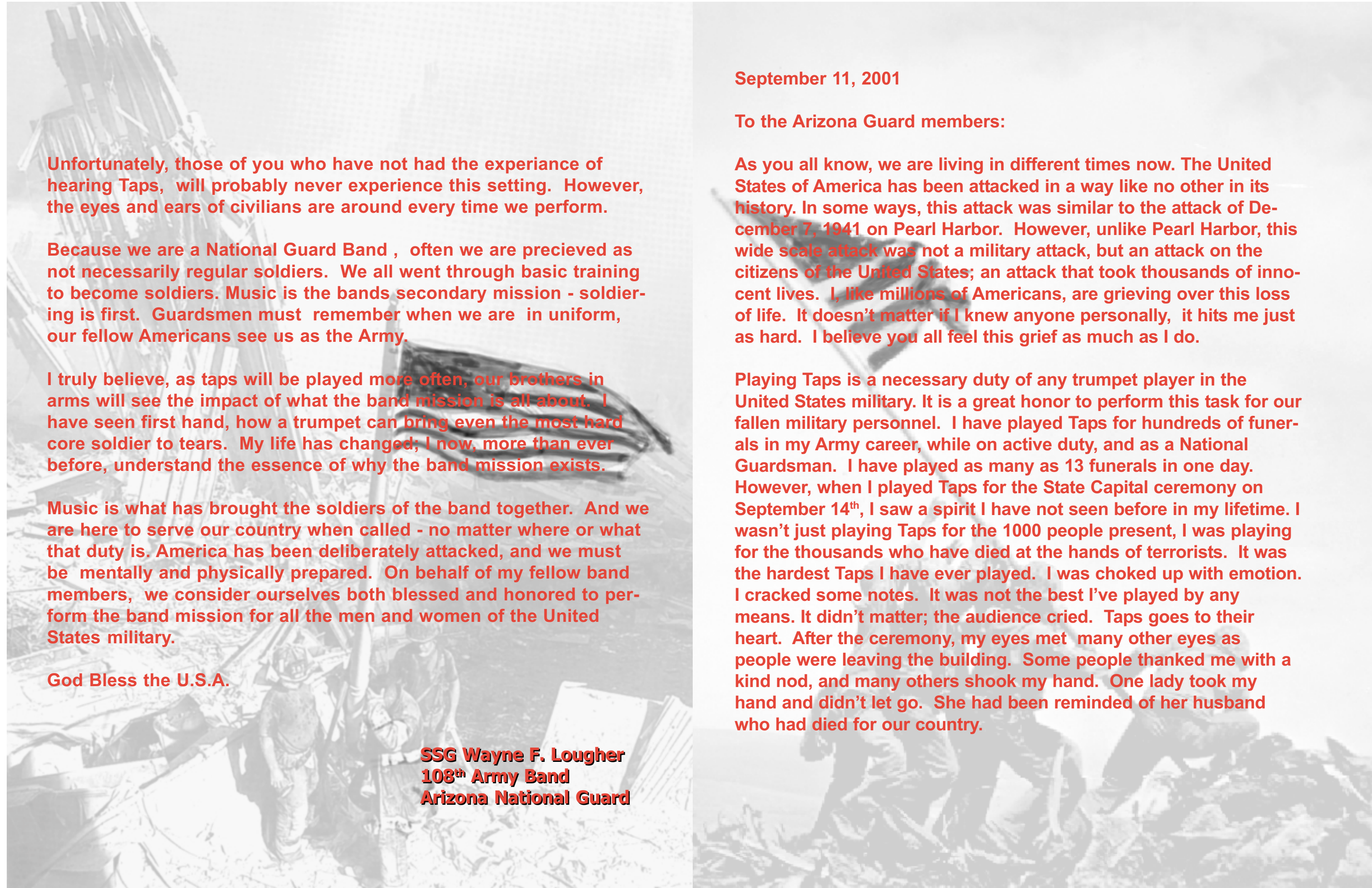


“I am so grateful right now to be a part of what is going on.”---
Sgt. Cynthia Martorano



“It’s a great thing the Guard is doing. We back the President 100%”--
Pfc Raul Martínez





Unfortunately, those of you who have not had the experience of hearing Taps, will probably never experience this setting. However, the eyes and ears of civilians are around every time we perform.

Because we are a National Guard Band, often we are perceived as not necessarily regular soldiers. We all went through basic training to become soldiers. Music is the band's secondary mission - soldiering is first. Guardsmen must remember when we are in uniform, our fellow Americans see us as the Army.

I truly believe, as Taps will be played more often, our brothers in arms will see the impact of what the band mission is all about. I have seen first hand, how a trumpet can bring even the most hard-core soldier to tears. My life has changed; I now, more than ever before, understand the essence of why the band mission exists.

Music is what has brought the soldiers of the band together. And we are here to serve our country when called - no matter where or what that duty is. America has been deliberately attacked, and we must be mentally and physically prepared. On behalf of my fellow band members, we consider ourselves both blessed and honored to perform the band mission for all the men and women of the United States military.

God Bless the U.S.A.

SSG Wayne F. Lougher
108th Army Band
Arizona National Guard

September 11, 2001

To the Arizona Guard members:

As you all know, we are living in different times now. The United States of America has been attacked in a way like no other in its history. In some ways, this attack was similar to the attack of December 7, 1941 on Pearl Harbor. However, unlike Pearl Harbor, this wide scale attack was not a military attack, but an attack on the citizens of the United States; an attack that took thousands of innocent lives. I, like millions of Americans, are grieving over this loss of life. It doesn't matter if I knew anyone personally, it hits me just as hard. I believe you all feel this grief as much as I do.

Playing Taps is a necessary duty of any trumpet player in the United States military. It is a great honor to perform this task for our fallen military personnel. I have played Taps for hundreds of funerals in my Army career, while on active duty, and as a National Guardsman. I have played as many as 13 funerals in one day. However, when I played Taps for the State Capital ceremony on September 14th, I saw a spirit I have not seen before in my lifetime. I wasn't just playing Taps for the 1000 people present, I was playing for the thousands who have died at the hands of terrorists. It was the hardest Taps I have ever played. I was choked up with emotion. I cracked some notes. It was not the best I've played by any means. It didn't matter; the audience cried. Taps goes to their heart. After the ceremony, my eyes met many other eyes as people were leaving the building. Some people thanked me with a kind nod, and many others shook my hand. One lady took my hand and didn't let go. She had been reminded of her husband who had died for our country.